What is claimed is:

1. A method for screening a mixture of compounds for activity comprising steps of:
   a. contacting the mixture with a system which mimics an organ capable of metabolizing the mixture in an appropriate time to generate metabolites; and
   b. determining the activity of the generated metabolites.

2. A method for quantitating a mixture of compounds comprising steps of:
   a. contacting the mixture with a system which mimics an organ capable of metabolizing the mixture in an appropriate time to generate metabolites; and
   b. determining the activity of the generated metabolites.

3. A method for identification of an active metabolite of a mixture of compounds comprising steps of:
   a. contacting the mixture with a system which mimics an organ capable of metabolizing the mixture in an appropriate time to generate metabolites; and
   b. determining the activity of the generated metabolites.

4. The method of claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the organ is a liver.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the system is human liver microsomes.

6. A method for screening a mixture of compounds for activity comprising steps of:

   a. administering the mixture to a subject capable of metabolizing the mixture; and

   b. taking bodily fluid which contains metabolites of the mixture from the subject, to determine the activity of the metabolite.

7. A method for quantitating an herbal extract comprising steps of:

   a. administering the mixture to a subject capable of metabolizing the mixture; and

   b. taking bodily fluid which contains metabolites of the mixture from the subject, to determine the activity of the metabolite.

8. A method for identification of the active metabolite of a mixture of compounds comprising steps of:

   a. administering the mixture to a subject capable of metabolizing the mixture; and

   b. taking bodily fluid which contains metabolites of the mixture from the subject, to determine the activity of the metabolite.

9. The method of claim 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, or 8, wherein the activity of the metabolites is determined by in vitro assay.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the assay is determined by the inhibition of cell growth.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the cells are cancerous cells.

12. The method of claim 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, or 8, wherein the activity of the metabolites is determined by inhibition of cyclin B1 activity.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the inhibition is at least 50%.

14. The method of claim 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, or 8, wherein the mixture is from a natural product.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the natural product is an herb.

16. The active metabolite identified by the method of claim 3 or 8.

17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of the metabolite of claim 16 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

18. A method of producing a fingerprint of an extract of a natural product comprising steps of:

a. contacting the extract with a system which mimics an organ capable of metabolizing the extract in an appropriate time to generate metabolites; and

b. determining the identity and amount of the metabolites generated, thereby generating a fingerprint of the extract.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the organ is a liver.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the system is human liver microsomes.

21. A method of producing a fingerprint of an extract of a natural product comprising steps of:

a. administering the extract to a subject capable of metabolizing the extract; and

b. determining the metabolites generated, thereby generalizing a fingerprint of the extract.

22. The method of claim 13 or 16, wherein the natural product is an herb.

23. The fingerprint produced by claim 18 or 21.

24. A method to determine the batch-to-batch variation of an extract from a natural product comprising comparison of the fingerprint of claim 23 of different batches.

25. A method to assay for formulation variation of an extract from a natural product comprising comparison of the fingerprint of claim 23 of different batches.

26. A method to assay for dose variation of an extract from a natural product comprising comparison of the fingerprint of claim 23 of different batches.

27. A method for identification of induced compounds in a subject comprising steps of:

a. administering a mixture of compounds to the subject; and

b. extracting bodily fluid from the subject to determine the generation of induced compound; and

c. identifying said induced compound.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the mixture is an extract from a natural product.

29. The induced compounds identified by claim 27.

30. The method of claim 6, 7, 8, 21, or 27, wherein the subject is a human.

31. A method for treating cancer in a subject comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of coptis chinesis extract.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the cancer is a solid tumor.

33. A method for treating cancer in a subject comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of coptis chinesis extract and a therapeutic agent.

34. The method of claim 33, further comprising a protein kinase C inhibitor.

35. The method of claim 33, wherein the therapeutic agent is a microtubule-destabilizing agent.

36. The method of claim 33, wherein the treating of the coptis chinesis extract and the therapeutic agent is performed in a sequential manner.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the subject is treated with coptis chinesis extract first, then a therapeutic agent.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein the therapeutic agent is a microtubule-destabilizing agent.

39. The method of claim 35 or 38, wherein the microtubule-destabilizing agent is a taxol or taxol-like compound.

40. An anti-tumor composition comprising an effective amount of coptis chinesis extract.